

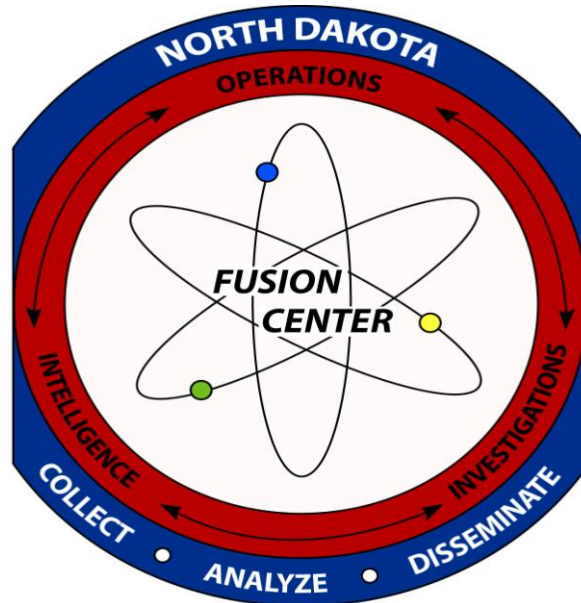


UNCLASSIFIED



North Dakota Homeland Security "Open Source" Anti-Terrorism Summary

January 05, 2010



The North Dakota All Source Anti-Terrorism Summary is a product of the North Dakota Fusion Center. It provides open source news articles and information on terrorism, crime, and potential destructive or damaging acts of nature or unintentional acts. Articles are placed in the Anti-Terrorism Summary to provide situational awareness for local law enforcement, first responders, government officials, and private/public infrastructure owners.

If you have any comments to improve this summary or local information you would like to see in the summary please send the information to ndfusion@nd.gov

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NORTH DAKOTA

Red River flooding solution is a problem to some. Although the Red River's swollen waters have long tormented this city and the region straddling North Dakota and Minnesota, the severity of flooding last spring galvanized leaders here to come up with a solution in a \$1 billion water diversion project. But as memories of the floods of 2009 — the images of farmhouses surrounded by miles of water — begin to fade, there are signs that the consensus may be tested. A Red River diversion plan is seen as benefiting cities. The project would create a large-scale diversion channel, essentially sending some part of the water off on a man-made path, around the neighbor cities of Fargo and Moorhead, Minnesota. The sensitive question, though, is where the water should go. Residents of the small, sugar beet farm towns near Fargo fear that any diversion would, in sparing the larger cities, send extra floodwaters straight for them. "There's only one place for it to go — our way — and we can't take anymore, believe me," said mayor of Perley, Minnesota, population 111, one of the towns sprinkled along the river, some of which found themselves isolated for nearly two months last spring because of floodwaters. "Fargo and Moorhead are the big guns," she said. "We don't have the people. We don't have the money. But this is going to affect all the little towns." Leaders here say there is little time for disagreement. The United States Army Corps of Engineers expects to complete an analysis of the alternatives by February, and there is hope that federal approval — and 65 percent of the cost, in federal money — can be secured in 2010. Source:

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/30/us/30flood.html?_r=1&ref=us

REGIONAL

Nothing Significant to Report

NATIONAL

Tennessee – Man Charged with Terrorism

A man who allegedly claimed he wanted to start a holy war in Memphis will return to court Jan. 11 on charges of threatening to blow up several businesses on Christmas Day. Mohamed Ibrahim, 35, is charged with commission of a terrorist act, false reporting and disorderly conduct. He is in the Shelby County Jail on a \$50,000 bond. The case has been referred to the FBI in Memphis for further investigation, according to the charges. Friday afternoon, Memphis police dispatchers issued an alert that a man driving a black Chrysler PT Cruiser had threatened to "blow up the business" at 300 Poplar, a BP gas station. A Memphis officer stopped the vehicle at Front Street and Jackson Avenue. The driver refused to identify himself to police, and appeared to be hiding something, according to the arresting officer. After Ibrahim was arrested and placed in a police cruiser, he began cursing police and attempting to kick out the windows, according to the charges. Officers subdued him with pepper spray. Police determined that Ibrahim had earlier that day made threats to blow up seven other businesses around town, according to the charges. Memphis police bomb squad officers checked the vehicle for explosives, then towed it to the impound lot. An FBI agent called to the scene recovered three cassette tapes described as "Islamic" in a police affidavit, and took the GPS from the vehicle. Court records show that Ibrahim had been arrested two days earlier with a 10-inch butcher knife concealed in his jacket sleeve and charged with unlawful possession of a weapon. He was released on \$100 bond. That day, Ibrahim had threatened other businesses and "stated he was a Muslim, and wanted to start jihad here in Memphis," according to the weapon charge.

Source: Chicago Police Department – Counter Terrorism Section (CTS) 29 December 2009

INTERNATIONAL

British cargo ship and Singapore chemical tanker hijacked by pirates off Somali coast. A cargo ship and a chemical tanker have both been hijacked by pirates in the perilous waters off the coast of Somalia, bringing to four the number of ships seized in the past week, officials said January 2. The British-flagged Asian Glory was taken late January 1 roughly 600 miles east of Somalia, said a spokesman with the European Union task force charged with combating piracy off Somalia. The same day, the Singaporean-flagged Pramoni, a chemical tanker with a crew of 24, was seized by pirates in the heavily defended Gulf of Aden. The spokesman said the Asian Glory's crew of 25 — from Ukraine, Bulgaria, India, and Romania — appeared to be safe and that the pirates had not yet made contact with the ship's owner, Zodiac Management Agencies. "The standard procedure for the pirates is to get the ship back to their stronghold and then contact the owner," he said. "I don't know yet where the ship is bound." He said the Asian Glory was headed for, but had not yet entered, the internationally recognized travel corridor patrolled by the European Union when it was hijacked. Officials said the Pramoni was traveling east toward India when it was seized. The ship's master radioed that the crew — from Indonesia, China, Nigeria, and Vietnam — was safe. The vessel is now also heading toward Somalia. Source:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5il6cwVdK1DxwN8dB2Na_5TEip-kQ

Somali pirates fire at Kuwaiti oil tanker. Heavily armed Somali pirates fired on a Kuwaiti oil tanker near the Arabian Sea on December 30 in an attempt to hijack the vessel, a global maritime watchdog said. The head of the International Maritime Bureau piracy reporting center in Kuala Lumpur told AFP that pirates armed with automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades launched the attack from a skiff off Somali waters. "The Somali pirates chased the tanker and sprayed bullets early Wednesday in a bid to hijack the ship," he said. "Fortunately, the tanker managed to escape the pirates," he said, adding there were no reports of injuries to the crew. He urged seafarers to be on high alert as pirates were attacking ships on "all fronts." "Pirates are expanding their areas of attack. They are now operating in the Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea and in the Indian Ocean," he said. National oil conglomerate Kuwait Petroleum Corp. said later that none of its large fleet of tankers had been attacked, but an industry source told AFP the vessel in the report could belong to a private company based in the emirate. Several other Gulf and pan-Arab oil tanker companies are based in Kuwait. Somali pirates captured a freighter, bulk carrier and a chemical tanker recently, defying foreign warships patrolling the Gulf of Aden and ending the year with millions in ransom. The marauding sea bandits' latest catch was the St James Park, a British-flagged chemical tanker with a crew of 26 from nine different countries, which was seized on December 28. Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gl7-->

Prosecutors question 10 men in connection with oil tanker plot. State Security Court (SSC) prosecutors on December 29 questioned 10 men suspected of attempting to blow up oil tankers heading from Jordan to Iraq, their attorney said on December 30. "I was contacted by their families and have met them once. I will meet with them again today to check on them and learn more details," a lawyer told the Jordan Times. The attorney said the 10 men, all in their 20s and 30s, were arrested by security forces in Jordan almost a month and a half ago. He said he expects the SSC

prosecution to finish preparing the charge sheet against the suspects next week. Source: <http://www.jordantimes.com/?news=22747>

Dutch to use full body scanners for US flights. The Netherlands will immediately begin using full body scanners for flights heading to the United States to prevent future terrorist attacks like the foiled Christmas Day attempt. In a preliminary report on Wednesday, the Dutch government said the plan to blow up the Detroit-bound aircraft was professional but called its execution “amateurish.” A Dutch official said the terrorist apparently assembled the explosive device, including 80 grams of PETN, in the aircraft toilet, then planned to detonate it with a syringe of chemicals. Amsterdam’s Schiphol has 15 body scanners, but their use has been limited because of privacy objections that they display the contours of the passenger’s body. Neither the European Union nor the U.S. have approved the routine use of the scanners. New software, however, eliminates that problem by projecting a stylized image onto a computer screen, highlighting the area of the body where objects are concealed in pockets or under the clothing and alerting security guards. Two scanners have been experimentally using that software since late November and the Dutch said those will be put into use immediately. All scanners will be upgraded within three weeks so they can be used on flights to the United States. Source: http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2009/12/30/general-us-airliner-attack_7242706.html

Somali Arrested at Airport with Chemicals, Syringe in November (Terrorism TTP)

A man tried to board a commercial airliner in Mogadishu last month carrying powdered chemicals, liquid and a syringe that could have caused an explosion in a case bearing chilling similarities to the terrorist plot to blow up a Detroit-bound airliner. The Somali man was arrested by African Union peacekeeping troops before the Nov. 13 Daallo Airlines flight took off. It had been scheduled to travel from Mogadishu to the northern Somali city of Hargeisa, then to Djibouti and Dubai. The Somali man had a syringe, a bag of powdered chemicals and liquid — tools similar to those used in the Detroit attack. The substances seized from the Somali passenger are being tested. The Somali man had a 2.2-pound package of chemical powder and a container of liquid chemicals. The man had a white shampoo bottle with a black acid-like substance in it. He also had a clear plastic bag with a light green chalky substance and a syringe containing a green liquid. The powdered material had the strong scent of ammonia.

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wirestory?id=9447429&page=1>

Pirates grab U.K. ship off Somali coast. Somali pirates hijacked a U.K.-flagged chemical tanker and its 26 crew in the Gulf of Aden, the first successful attack on a merchant ship in the heavily patrolled sea channel in almost six months. The St. James Park had registered its position with the European Union anti-piracy force though it had not joined a group transit, a spokesman for the force said in a telephone interview. It was seized Monday due north of the Somali port of Boosaaso, he said. The St. James Park was sailing to Thailand from Spain, and is now believed to be heading for the eastern coast of Somalia, the head of East Africa Seafarers’ Assistance Program said by phone from the Kenyan port city of Mombasa. Its 26-man crew includes Russians, Filipinos, Bulgarians, Indians, Turks, Ukrainians, a Georgian and a Pole, the EU said. The ship is owned by Philbox Ltd. Pirates Monday hijacked the bulk carrier Navios Apollon as it was sailing in the Indian Ocean, 240 nautical miles east-northeast of the Seychelles, the Greek government said. The Panama-flagged Navios Apollon, carrying a cargo of fertilizer, has a Greek captain and 18 Filipino crew members; it was sailing from Florida to India, a spokeswoman for the Citizen Protection Ministry in Athens said in a telephone interview. The 2000-built vessel, with a carrying capacity of 52,073 deadweight tons, belongs to the

Angeliki Frangou-led Navios Maritime Partners. Pirates have also released two ships this week, the Chinese bulk carrier De Xin Hai and the Singapore-flagged container ship Kota Wajar. Source: http://www.businessweek.com/globalbiz/content/dec2009/gb20091229_798044.htm

BANKING AND FINANCE INDUSTRY

Phishers prefer Paypal, Visa, eBay and Amex. Compared to the first half of 2009, the amount of phishing messages has remained relatively unchanged, although phishers have switched their focus to institutions that could bring them the most profit in the shortest timeframe. This is one of the results of BitDefender's malware and spam survey. Primary targets are PayPal, Visa and eBay, followed by HSBC, American Express, and Abbey Bank. Ally Bank and Bank of America rank last with a little over one percent of the total amount of phishing messages. These messages mostly target English-speaking computer users who are using the services of at least one of the institutions previously mentioned. BitDefender Labs found that most web 2.0 phishing attempts in the first half of 2009 relied on social engineering schemes and speculated user naivety. The Twitter Porn Name scam is a good example. Users were invited to reveal their first pet name, as well as the first street on which they lived. These names are usually employed as backup/security questions. An e-crook possessing a person's username along with these "clues" can easily retrieve a password that he or she can later employ to access the account and send spam, access transactions, or use the account in whatever way necessary to make a profit, including demanding a ransom for release of the hijacked account. Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=8660>

Man uses 'bomb' to rob Bunnell bank. An unidentified man put a strange cylinder on the counter at a Bank of America and told the teller it was a bomb, quietly demanding money on December 31. The man fled the bank branch on E. Moody Blvd. just after 11:30 a.m. with an undisclosed amount of cash — and left the package behind. The teller raised the alarm and customers and bank employees were informed of what had happened. Local law enforcement officers shut down the streets around the bank for several hours on December 31 while the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office bomb squad checked out the pipe-like package that was covered in electrical tape. A nearby business was also evacuated and no one was allowed within 500 feet of the bank — including stranded customers and workers whose cars were in the bank parking lot. Just before 3 p.m., the bomb squad "neutralized" the package inside the building by blowing it up in a protective container, the Bunnell police chief said. Source: <http://www.news-journalonline.com/NewsJournalOnline/News/Flagler/flaHEAD03010110.htm>

Suspect robs Delaware County bank using a bomb threat. The bomb squad was called to the scene after reports of a bank robbery in Delaware County Wednesday morning. Police said a suspect entered an M&T Bank on Hinkley Avenue in Ridley Park at about 9:30 a.m. and told the teller he had a bomb. After receiving an undisclosed amount of cash, the suspect fled the scene. Following the robbery, police shut down the area surrounding the bank and called the Delaware County Bomb Squad as a precaution. No explosives were located. No arrests have been made. The incident remains under investigation. Source: <http://cbs3.com/topstories/bomb.bank.robbery.2.1397204.html>

Suspicious package was bag of trash, officials say. Authorities determined a suspicious package found at a North Side bank Wednesday morning was a paper bag full of trash, said a San Antonio Fire

Department spokeswoman. Employees arriving to work at Chase Bank in the 12500 block of Northwest Military Highway and Wurzbach Parkway called 911 around 7 a.m. after they found a small bag in the bank's drive-through automated teller machine lane. San Antonio Fire Department officials said the bag appeared to be from Las Palapas and had a note attached to it that says, "Open if you want a surprise." The department's hazardous materials crew, along with San Antonio Police Department's bomb squad, investigated the package. Source: <http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/80340842.html>

Laptop theft puts MBNA customers at risk. MBNA has confirmed that customer data has been compromised following the theft of a laptop from the offices of credit and finance firm NCO Europe. According to SC Magazine, the laptop contained some personal details, but no PIN numbers. An MBNA spokesman said they believe that none of the details had been used fraudulently. Still, the company is offering affected customers free access to CreditExpert from Experian for the next 12 months.

Source: <http://www.itbusinessedge.com/cm/community/news/sec/blog/laptop-theft-puts-mbna-customers-at-risk/?cs=38435>

Iowa phone scam poses as credit union call. Nevada residents who have not yet gotten a phone call from a scammer posing as a credit union can expect one soon. Police say a scam to get people to give out banking or credit card information is making its way through every phone number in Nevada, Iowa. The recorded call purports to come from a Nevada credit union, but police say the credit union is unaware of the phone calls and is unaffiliated with the scam. Police say the calls are using "caller ID spoofing," which allows their number to appear as a legitimate business. Because the scam likely crosses international borders, police say it will be difficult to prosecute, and any money lost to the scam will be nearly impossible to recover. Source: <http://www.kwqc.com/Global/story.asp?S=11741849>

SECU members fall victim to skimmers. In Raleigh, an investigation is under way after about 300 people had money skimmed from their State Employees Credit Union account. A SECU member said she got a call from the credit union on Christmas Day telling her she was a victim of skimming. Her account was skimmed by using her SECU debit card at a gas station. "This type of thing happens all the time, unfortunately," the senior vice president of SECU's card and record services department said. She advises SECU members to pay careful attention to their bank activity and credit card statements and report any irregularities or suspicions to police. "Any time you're using a device anywhere, using your card, look for something unusual," she said. Skimming devices are often color coordinated, making them difficult to spot on ATMs. Finding the skimming device on a gas pump is virtually impossible as it is often hidden on the inside. "Some of the more common ways to hide them is put an envelope holder close to the ATM, or what looks like an envelope holder with a small pin hole in it, and a small camera mounted inside. Sometimes they're mounted overhead," said a spokesman for the Raleigh Police Department. SECU officials said the recent thefts likely happened at gas stations and not by using their ATM machines. It is not yet clear if other banks or customers are affected. Source: <http://www.wral.com/news/local/story/6700487/>

Suspicious packages found outside Tigard Bank. Two suspicious packages prompted the evacuation of a bank in Tigard on Monday, police said. The packages — two stacked cardboard boxes — were discovered near an ATM outside the Bank of America at Southwest Greenburg Road and 99W at

about 2:30 p.m. The Portland bomb squad X-rayed the boxes, which were determined to be full of garbage. The boxes were considered suspicious because of an attached note, Tigard police said. The note was not threatening, police said, but officers would not go into detail. The evacuation order for the bank was also lifted. Source: <http://www.kptv.com/news/22075719/detail.html>

Hawthorne bank robber linked to bomb hoax in Starke. A bank robber, who used a fake bomb to hold up a Starke bank last week, apparently struck again at a Hawthorne bank Monday. The man used the same tactic to rob the M&S Bank, 6875 S.E. 221st St., at about 11:30 a.m., the Alachua County Sheriff's Office reported. The suspect entered the business, got cash, and left behind a suspicious package, said the Sheriff's Office spokesman. No one was injured during the robbery. But bank employees and customers left the building after the robber left behind a suspicious container. People in nearby buildings also were evacuated while the Sheriff's Office bomb squad was called out to determine whether the package inside the bank was a bomb. The package, described as leather-type case that resembled a shaving kit, was not a bomb, the Sheriff's Office spokesman said. He did not elaborate further on what the container looked like but said, "It had something that led them to believe that it could be possibly an explosive device." Monday's robbery mirrored reports from a Starke bank robbed last week. In that case, a man left a device with protruding wires at the Capital City Bank, 350 N. Temple Ave., on December 22. He walked up to the teller and demanded \$50 and \$100 bills and left on foot with the stolen cash. The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad was called in and later determined the device was not a bomb. Police in Starke still are searching for the robber in that case, said a police spokesman. After officers from the different agencies reviewed the two cases, the Alachua County Sheriff's Office spokesman said they "definitely" believe they are dealing with the same suspect. Source:

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091228/ARTICLES/912289970/1002>

CHEMICAL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SECTOR

No damage to US Southwest reactors from quake. A moderate earthquake that rattled both sides of the U.S.-Mexican border caused no damage to nuclear power plants in nearby Arizona and California. However, workers at the Palo Verde nuclear plant in Arizona, about 50 miles west of Phoenix, felt the 5.8-magnitude quake on Wednesday, the plant's owner told the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The earthquake did not register on the plant's seismic monitoring equipment. The 3,872-megawatt plant declared an unusual event, which is the lowest of the NRC's four emergency classifications. Workers found no unusual conditions or damage to plant equipment. All three reactors at Palo Verde continued to operate at full power throughout the event. Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN3124363020091231?type=marketsNews>

COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

U.S. warns of possible 'attack to Bali tonight.' The U.S. Embassy warned Thursday of a possible New Year's Eve terrorist attack on Indonesia's Bali Island, based on information from the popular resort's governor, but security officials said they were unaware of a threat. An embassy e-mail to U.S. citizens quoted the island's governor as saying, "There is an indication of an attack to Bali tonight." An Indonesian police spokesman said the department had no information about a specific threat on Bali and that security was in place to ensure festivities would be safe. The embassy said U.S. citizens should monitor local media and be aware of possible threats in the world's most populous Muslim-

majority nation. "While Indonesia's counterterrorism efforts have been ongoing and partly successful, violent elements have demonstrated a willingness and ability to carry out deadly attacks with little or no warning," the e-mail said. An embassy spokeswoman said the warning had been widely distributed to restaurants and cafes by the Bali Tourism Board. But the Bali Tourism Board head said he "never issued such a statement or letter regarding the threat of terrorist attacks." Source:

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/34640719/ns/world_news-asiapacific/

Suspicious package sent to attorney's office. A building in downtown Columbia had to be evacuated on Wednesday afternoon after a suspicious package was sent to an attorney's office, said the Maury County Sheriff's Department. The building was evacuated after an envelope, which contained a white powder, was sent to the office of a known attorney. There is no report of injuries, but about 15 employees were quarantined most of the afternoon. Some of those who were evacuated had to go through a detoxification process. Preliminary tests indicate the substance is not harmful, but investigators are still waiting to do more thorough testing. At about 5:30 p.m., everyone but the people who had contact with the envelope was allowed to leave the area. The Joint Terrorism Task Force is investigating. Source: <http://www.wsmv.com/news/22092016/detail.html>

No bomb in Times Square; Nasdaq workers return. New York City's Times Square has been reopened to traffic — and employees, including those at Nasdaq headquarters, returned to their offices — after a bomb squad found no explosive devices in an abandoned van parked in the area. The squad used a robot-based camera to approach the vehicle and open it Wednesday. Police say they found clothing inside. The area around 42d Street between Seventh Avenue and Broadway was briefly blocked off as a precaution, and two high-rise buildings home to Nasdaq and Conde Nast were partially evacuated. "In regard to events at the Nasdaq Market Site, trading at Nasdaq is unaffected. All Nasdaq systems are operating normally," said an announcement posted on the Nasdaq Web site at 1:10 Wednesday afternoon. The van has tinted windows, and a placard from a nonexistent law enforcement agency is on the dashboard. It has no license plates, but a temporary registration was found inside the van and officers are trying to locate the owner. Police officers on patrol noticed the van around mid-morning Wednesday. Security is tight as the New Year approaches. Source:

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/breaking/business_breaking/20091230_No_bomb_in_Times_Square_Nasdaq_workers_return.html

Gunman, other man dead after California casino standoff. A California sheriff says a man who was fired from his job at an Indian casino last month shot and killed a man in the gaming commission's security office, then fatally turned the gun on himself. The sheriff says the bodies were discovered Tuesday afternoon when deputies sent two robots inside the office at the Barona Resort and Casino after an hours-long standoff. The shooting did not take place in the casino section of the popular resort, which is 30 miles northeast of downtown San Diego. The gaming floor stayed open during the ordeal. Officials say it began when the 38-year-old man burst into the office with a gun and ordered three secretaries to leave. A sheriff's spokeswoman says witnesses heard three shots. Officials have not released any details about the victim. Source:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2009/dec/29/gunman-other-man-dead-after-calif-casino-standoff/>

About 80 offered antibiotics after anthrax scare in Durham. About 80 people will be offered antibiotics and the anthrax vaccine after tests confirmed the presence of the disease at the drumming room of the Waysmeet Center. The medicine is being offered to people who took part in a

West African drumming event at the center on December 4 and another 20 who had access to the building, along with two lab workers at risk of exposure. Meanwhile, the young Strafford County woman who attended the event and has tested positive for gastrointestinal anthrax — the first such case in U.S. history — remains in critical condition at an undisclosed out-of-state hospital. An adviser to New Hampshire's division of public health services, said the state is contacting those 80 people and is merely offering the medicine, which is typically taken for 60 days, out of precaution because "this is a very low-risk situation." So far, health officials believe "vigorous" drumming may have dispersed an anthrax spore into the air, where it was "briefly suspended" before the woman swallowed or inhaled it, causing it to end up in her digestive tract, the advisor said. The center is home to United Campus Ministry that is independent of the University of New Hampshire but offers a residential community for students. It remains closed per an order of the state Department of Health and Human Services. The advisor said environmental samples taken from electrical outlets in the drumming room came back positive for anthrax late Monday. Source:

http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091230/GJNEWS_01/712309957/-1/FOSNEWS

COMMUNICATIONS

AT&T down: Network service outages. A number of reports indicate that AT&T is suffering from network outages that are affecting users. 3G cell phone users in Norwalk, Connecticut, Keller, Texas, Ville Platte, Louisiana, Los Angeles, California, and Orange County, California, have all mentioned service outages when attempting to use their phones. There have also been reports of SMS outages due primarily to heavy load, although it appears that issue may now be cleared up. Source:

<http://www.timesoftheinternet.com/briefs/att-down-network-service-outages/>

Cracked GSM Security Code Could Force Mobile Network Upgrades

Mobile phone operators may be forced to upgrade their networks to improve security after hackers claimed to have cracked the code protecting the global system for mobile communications (GSM). More than three billion mobile phone users in 212 countries that use GSM could be vulnerable to eavesdropping by hackers using relatively inexpensive equipment, according to the Financial Times. But users of newer 3G phones are unaffected as these devices use a stronger encryption code. The code was cracked by a team led by German cryptographer Karsten Nohl with the aim of forcing operators to upgrade security. Nohl said the A5/1 encryption code for the GSM system was developed in 1988 and should have been replaced 15 years ago. Full Article:

<http://www.computerweekly.com/Articles/2010/01/04/239794/cracked-gsm-security-code-could-force-mobile-network.htm>

Wireless phone companies pushing to use federal, defense frequencies. As mobile phones become more sophisticated, they transmit and receive more data over the airwaves. But the spectrum of wireless frequencies is finite — and devices like the iPhone are allowed to use only so much of it. TV and radio broadcasts, Wi-Fi networks, and other communications services also use the airwaves. Each transmits on certain frequencies to avoid interference with others. Now wireless phone companies fear they are in danger of running out of room, leaving congested networks that frustrate users and slow innovation. So the wireless companies want the government to give them bigger slices of airwaves — even if other users have to give up rights to theirs. Wireless companies are eyeing some frequencies used by TV broadcasters, satellite-communications companies, and federal agencies such

as the Pentagon. Already, some of those groups are pushing back. That means tough choices are ahead. But one way or another, Washington will keep up with the exploding growth of the wireless market, insists a U.S. Representative from Virginia. He is sponsoring a bill that would mandate a government inventory of the airwaves to identify unused or underused bands that could be reallocated. The head of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the arm of the Commerce Department that manages the federal government's use of the airwaves, says the agency is also hunting for more frequencies the wireless industry can use. The Pentagon has vacated some frequencies and is developing technology that can make more efficient use of airwaves. It also says it is committed to finding compromises that work for the government and commercial sector, so long as those do not jeopardize military capabilities. Source:

http://www.nextgov.com/nextgov/ng_20091228_6508.php

Verizon customers losing their patience. At least 5,000 Verizon customers still were without phone service Monday, 10 days after a winter storm downed power and phone lines across West Virginia. The company does not know when phone service will be restored to all its customers. A Verizon spokesman said there were 5,000 open repair requests, a number that likely gives a low ballpark figure of the total outage. On Monday, there were roughly twice as many people in the state without phone service as without power. By afternoon, about 2,700 customers were still without power, down from the 100,000 customers who were powerless at the beginning of last week, according to the state division of emergency management. Some of those outages Monday were because of Sunday night's winds. Verizon's spokesman said the number of people without phone service did not approach the number of people without power. Part of the reason for the lag between people getting their power back and still having their phone off comes from the practice the phone company has of working after power crews for both safety and technical reasons. Verizon also has fewer workers on hand than American Electric Power. In the Charleston area alone, more than 160 power company crews and nearly 800 people from more than 20 companies in more than a half dozen states worked during the holidays to restore power, an AEP spokesman said. Verizon, by contrast, has about 300 technicians working to restore phone service in West Virginia, company officials said. Not many of them are from out of state and, instead, the company is shifting technicians from the northern part of West Virginia into the southern part, where the damage has been the most extensive. Source:

<http://www.dailymail.com/News/statenews/200912280483?page=1&build=cache>

CRITICAL MANUFACTURING

Recall alert: 2009 Audi Q5. On the heels of an announcement that Audi will offer a Q5 hybrid in 2011, the German automaker has issued a recall on the 2009 Q5 SUV. The recall, which is the model's first, affects more than 6,000 SUVs produced between November 25, 2008 and June 4, 2009. It concerns a defective pillar trim cover clip that can pose a danger during airbag deployment. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's recall notice, the A-pillar trim could "become loose when the sideguard head protection airbags deploy during crash. If this happens, a loose trim piece could injure the front seat occupants of the vehicle." Source:

http://www.phillyburbs.com/news/news_details/article/92/2009/december/30/crane-catches-fire-at-port.html

Class action filed against gun manufacturer for defective trigger. Texas lawyers are seeking class action status for a lawsuit recently filed in Arkansas which alleges some Remington rifles contain defective triggers. Seeking more than \$5 million in damages, attorneys from Dallas and Houston filed a suit against Remington Arms Co. on December 10 in the El Dorado Division of the Western District of Arkansas. On behalf of the proposed class, the plaintiff alleges that Model 700 Remington's contain a "dangerously defective 'Walker' fire control system that may (and often does) fire without a trigger pull upon release of the safety, movement of the bolt, or when jarred or bumped." The class will include those individuals who have purchased a new Remington model 700 bolt action rifle that contains a Walker control fire system within the last five years or who currently own the gun. The lawsuit will not include any claims of personal injury. The lawsuit alleges that Remington negligently continues to place the Walker fire control design in guns, although it has designed a new trigger mechanism that is installed into some of its other rifles. Source:

<http://www.setexasrecord.com/news/223875-class-action-filed-against-gun-manufacturer-for-defective-trigger>

GM recalls 22,000 Corvettes. General Motors is recalling some 22,000 Chevrolet Corvettes, because of potentially leaky roofs, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) said December 30. The recall includes 2005-2007 model year Corvettes with removable roofs and 2006-2007 Corvette Z06s. GM's recall includes 2005-2007 model year Corvettes with removable roofs and 2006-2007 Corvette Z06s. A problem with the adhesive between the roof panel and the frame could cause them to pull apart, the agency said. "If there is a complete separation, the roof panel may detach from the vehicle," according to the NHTSA. "If this were to occur while the vehicle was being driven, it could strike a following vehicle and cause injury and/or property damage." Dealers will install a new design roof panel free of charge to correct the problem, NHTSA said in its recall notice. The safety recall is expected to begin next month. Source:

http://money.cnn.com/2009/12/30/autos/GM_Corvette_recall.cnnw/index.htm

(National) **Drivers flag worries over brakes on new Prius.** Chat rooms such as Priuschat.com dedicated to Toyota's fuel-efficient hybrid are peppered with concerns raised by owners of the third-generation Prius, which was launched for the 2010 model year. At least 33 complaints alleging safety problems with the '10 Prius, most often involving braking issues have been filed with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Office of Defects Investigation. NHTSA confirmed receiving complaints, which are a matter of public record, but would not comment further. A Toyota spokesman said no formal investigation is under way, but added that Internet traffic and other complaints had made the company aware of the concerns. What happens next is uncertain. The government could launch a formal investigation and, if it were to find evidence of a safety defect, could work with the automaker to find a fix, which might ultimately lead to a recall. Prius brakes are hybrids in their own right. When a motorist applies pressure to the brake pedal, the Prius brakes first go into regenerative mode, recapturing kinetic energy normally lost and turning it into electric current to recharge the vehicle's batteries. For more aggressive stops, Prius uses a conventional, hydraulic braking system. Several mechanics suggested it could be possible that the sensors controlling the regenerative braking system might malfunction when the wheels are jarred by a hard bump and briefly disengage, but an accurate determination has yet to be made. Source:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/34611930/ns/business-autos/>

DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE SECTOR

Fleet scrambles to meet BMD ship demand. No sooner did the Aegis ballistic missile defense system become operational in 2008 than combatant commanders started asking for BMD-equipped ships to begin patrolling their areas. U.S. Central Command needed a “shooter” in the northern Persian Gulf. European Command wanted one in the eastern Mediterranean. Pacific Command already had Aegis ships with limited BMD capabilities on guard around Japan for a potential launch from North Korea. The demand for BMD ships is expected to increase, driven in part by rising concerns about Iran’s intentions and the U.S. decision in September to cancel an anti-missile system in Poland and the Czech Republic and rely instead on Aegis. But the Navy has a relatively small number of such ships, and those destroyers and cruisers are designed to carry out a wide range of war-fighting tasks. As a result, while Navy commanders are pleased with the expanding capabilities of their Aegis ships, they’re also somewhat guarded about trumpeting the advances. “We can’t constrain assets to one mission,” a senior officer said last month. “They need to do a variety of other missions.” Worries that valuable Aegis ships might be locked into the BMD mission were discussed in December at a two-day seminar at the National Defense University in Washington. The Navy is also working on how to respond, said the director of the Navy Staff. “We have a small Navy today — the smallest since 1916 — yet we have a growing global demand for maritime forces, maritime security operations. And now we have a growing demand for maritime ballistic missile defense. Our ships and our crews and our systems are up to the challenge, but it’s a capacity issue for us,” the admiral said to a reporter during the NDU seminar. Source: http://militarytimes.com/news/2010/01/navy_aegis_bmd_010410w/

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Calif. police building rigged to explode. Police officers and other members of a gang task force in Southern California found their building had been rigged to explode Thursday, authorities said. At the headquarters of the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley Anti-Gang Task Force, a gas line had been rerouted through the office, said a Hemet police lieutenant. Given the amount of gas that had accumulated, a spark could have ignited the building, he told KABC-TV, Los Angeles. “It could have easily leveled that building — that’s about a 1,700-square-foot building — and killed anyone inside,” he said. “It was planned to blow up the building and anyone in it. We’re not really sure why it didn’t.” Authorities evacuated the building and shut down the gas as investigators examined the office. A Hemet police lieutenant told the Los Angeles Times it is “an educated guess” that gang members are responsible. The gang task force, formed five years ago, includes members of the Hemet Police Department, the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department, the county probation office, the state parole office and the district attorney’s office. Source: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2009/12/31/Calif-police-building-rigged-to-explode/UPI-60571262319191/

Mercury left in suspicious package in front of Antioch fire station. An Antioch fire station was evacuated Wednesday and the bomb squad called in after someone left a suspicious duct-taped lunchbox labeled “Danger” in front of the station. The package held two containers filled with mercury. Investigators do not believe the anonymous package was left maliciously, but rather placed there by someone who did not know how to properly dispose of the hazardous material it contained. Police evacuated the station until the mercury was safely removed at 11 a.m. Firefighters meanwhile worked out of another station. No one was injured and no spills occurred, police said. Source: http://www.contracostatimes.com/crime-courts/ci_14096869?nclink_check=1

Officials plan nationwide emergency alert test in Alaska. Officials say Alaska's unique location has put it on the forefront of emergency alerts. The state will be the first to test a live National Emergency Message Code. In any emergency situation the goal is to alert the public as quickly and as efficiently as possible. Recent public service announcements warn viewers and listeners of an emergency code test that will hit airwaves at 10 a.m. on January 6. It's an exercise to see if, during a real national emergency, the word will reach the public. "This particular test is going to use the real code if there was a national-level emergency and the president needed to talk to the American public. It's going to use the actual code that would be used during a national emergency," said the Chief of Operations at the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The Emergency Action Notification Code can only be activated by the president. It has never been tested before and officials say Alaska is the ideal location. Several FEMA and national homeland security officials will come to Alaska to monitor the exercise that will operate out of Alaska's homeland security center. Source: <http://www.ktuu.com/Global/story.asp?S=11745960>

Thousands of dollars worth of copper stolen from EMS tower site. West Virginia state troopers are investigating the theft of thousands of dollars worth of copper, which was reported stolen from the Cabell County EMS, AT&T, and West Virginia State Trauma Emergency Medical System tower site Monday, December 28. Damage to the site is valued at several thousands of dollars. At the time of the theft, there was limited communications to all EMS and fire units, in the southern portion of Cabell County. Source: <http://wowktv.com/story.cfm?func=viewstory&storyid=72609>

Police deaths decrease, but fatal shootings climb. Five ambush-style incidents that ended in the shooting deaths of 15 police officers are putting a damper on a positive trend this year: The number of officers who died in the line of duty was the lowest in 50 years. The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, which released its preliminary 2009 statistics Tuesday, reports that 124 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty this year, down 7 percent from last year and the lowest number since 1959. "When you consider there are three times the number of officers serving today — that makes the numbers even more favorable," the Fund's CEO says. The decrease is overshadowed by the spike in the number of officers killed by gunfire — 15 in multiple shootings, the most of any year since 1981. The total number of officers shot and killed surged 23 percent since last year to 48. More than 30 percent of the deaths happened in five incidents where one shooter killed several officers. Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2009-12-28-line-of-duty_N.htm

Couple charged after interfering at house fire. A Lonaconing, Maryland woman and Burlington, West Virginia man were both jailed early the morning of December 23 after allegedly interfering with a firefighting operation taking place on Old Beechwood Road in Lonaconing. Firefighters were called out at 1:35 a.m., according to the Allegany County 911 Center. While they were putting the house fire out, the woman allegedly drove over and damaged a live fire hose, according to the Allegany County Bureau of Police. Police said that firefighters requested the driver and passenger to stop and wait for police to arrive. They allegedly got out of the car but then switched places and the man allegedly became upset about being asked to wait. He was detained by the firefighters until police arrived. He was then charged with driving under the influence and driving with a suspended license. The woman was charged with driving while revoked, driving without insurance, vehicle displaying wrong tags, and damaging a fire hose. Firefighters from Good Will, Midland, Barton, and Potomac companies and Georges Creek Ambulance responded to the fire call. The fire was brought under control at 2:18 a.m. and firefighters remained on the scene until 3 a.m., according to the 911 center. The Allegany County

Roads Division also responded due to freezing water on the road. Source: http://www.times-news.com/local/local_story_357231453.html

ENERGY

Nothing Significant to Report

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Voluntary Recall of Nutty Guys Butter Toffee Peanuts and Yogurt Covered Peanuts

Nutty Guys is issuing a voluntary recall of all Butter Toffee Peanuts and Yogurt Covered Peanuts with sell by dates before March 15th 2010. Insects were discovered in some of these products. If you have affected Nutty Guys Products with a sell by date of March 15 2010 or earlier, please contact Nutty Guys for instructions and refund (801-974-0633, www.nuttyguys.com).

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm196024.htm>

Taiwan reinstates ban on some American beef. Taiwan's parliament agreed to amend a food-safety law to ban certain U.S. beef imports amid widespread fears over mad cow disease on the island, potentially straining ties with the United States. Under the deal, minced beef, cow offal and beef from cattle older than 30 months will not be allowed for import into Taiwan, the government-backed Central News Agency reported. The move would abrogate a bilateral agreement signed by Taiwan and the United States two months ago, officials from the U.S. Trade Representative's office and the U.S. Department of Agriculture said in a joint statement. "The proposed amendment's provisions do not have a basis in science or fact and thus in no way serve to protect Taiwan's food supply," the statement said. Legislators will vote on the issue early next year, the president of Taiwan's legislature said. Taiwan first banned U.S. beef in December 2003, after the U.S. found its first case of mad cow disease. In late October, Taiwan said it would lift the age restrictions and reopen its markets to U.S. bone-in beef such as ribs and T-bone steaks. But the public as well as importers have questioned the decision. Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB126213594603909711.html>

E. coli outbreak expands to 16 states. An E. coli O157:H7 outbreak tied to a nationwide recall of mechanically tenderized steaks is now linked to 21 illnesses in 16 states, according to public health officials. Oklahoma-based National Steak and Poultry (NSP) announced last week it was initiating a recall of processed steak products after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) identified a cluster of E. coli O157:H7 illnesses. According to the FSIS release, the outbreak is linked to illness in 6 states: Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, South Dakota, and Washington, but a CDC spokeswoman confirmed this morning that 16 states are reporting E. coli cases tied to the outbreak. FSIS's initial release also indicates that the product was distributed to restaurants across the country. According to NSP the product was distributed to Moe's Southwest Grill, Carino's Italian Grill, and KRM restaurants located primarily in the 6 states initially connected to the outbreak. Neither the CDC nor FSIS has released a complete list of states involved in the outbreak. There are 10 states with illnesses connected to the outbreak that have yet to be named. Source:

<http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2009/12/thechristmas-eve-recall-of-almost/>

Pressure rises to stop antibiotics in agriculture. More and more Americans — many of them living far from barns and pastures — are at risk from the widespread practice of feeding livestock antibiotics. These animals grow faster, but they can also develop drug-resistant infections that are passed on to people. The issue is now gaining attention because of interest from a new White House administration and a flurry of new research tying antibiotic use in animals to drug resistance in people. Researchers say the overuse of antibiotics in humans and animals has led to a plague of drug-resistant infections that killed more than 65,000 people in the U.S. last year — more than prostate and breast cancer combined. And in a nation that used about 35 million pounds of antibiotics last year, 70 percent of the drugs went to pigs, chickens and cows. Worldwide, it is 50 percent. Source: http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2009/12/29/us/AP-When-Drugs-Stop-Working-The-Meat-We-Eat.html?_r=1

Equine disease restricting horse transport into NM. An equine disease that can result in acute illness and sometimes death is restricting the transport of some horses into New Mexico. The New Mexico Livestock Board has barred the import of horses from Texas counties that have confirmed cases of equine piroplasmiasis. Racehorses will not be allowed to enter a New Mexico racetrack until they have a negative equine piroplasmiasis test within six months. A state veterinarian told the Ruidoso News that the board has taken a proactive stand to protect the state's racing industry as well as the exhibition and breeding industry from the introduction of the disease. Equine piroplasmiasis is a blood parasite that causes blood loss, anemia, debilitation, and death in some acute cases. It is primarily transmitted by certain species of ticks. Source: <http://www.newswest9.com/Global/story.asp?S=11757228>

GOVERNMENT SECTOR (INCLUDING SCHOOLS & UNIVERSITIES)

Secret Service probes hanging Obama effigy. The mayor of former President Jimmy Carter's hometown says the city acted immediately to remove an effigy of the current U.S. President that was found hanging from a building. The mayor said Monday he was shocked when the large black doll was found Saturday morning on Main Street in the small Georgia town of Plains. A U.S. Secret Service spokesman says the agency is investigating. He declined to elaborate. Footage from WALB-TV showed the doll hanging by a noose in front of an official sign that says "Plains, Georgia. Home of Jimmy Carter, our 39th President." A witness told the television station that the doll wore a sign with the President's name on it, but the mayor says he could not read the sign on the doll because it was curled up. Source: <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/nation/secret-service-probes-obama-effigy-found-hanging-from-building-in-jimmy-carters-ga-hometown-80569952.html>

2 dead in shootout at Las Vegas federal building. A gunman in a black trench coat opened fire Monday morning in the lobby of the Federal Courthouse in downtown Las Vegas, killing a court security officer and wounding a deputy United States marshal before fleeing. He was then shot in the head and killed nearby. "The suspect was in the lobby, but he never made it past the security checkpoint," said a spokeswoman for the Las Vegas police. The building, the Lloyd D. George Federal Courthouse, is a huge structure that houses federal courts as well as other agencies, including the offices of two Senators. Both Senators were in Nevada, their offices said, but not in the building. The gunman entered the building shortly after it opened at 8 a.m. and began firing in the lobby. An Associated Press reporter within sight of the building counted 20 shots over several minutes, although it was not clear how many were fired by the gunman and how many by responding law

enforcement officials. Two hours after the shooting, the complex was still being evacuated floor by floor, with groups of about 20 people being escorted several blocks away while surrounded by several officers toting large rifles. The courthouse was blocked off for at least a five-block perimeter. Federal officials confirmed that the security officer had died. There was no immediate word on the identity of the suspect, or whether the shooting was a random act of violence, a vendetta or something else. There was also no initial indication that terrorism was involved. Source:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/05/us/05vegas.html>

Evansville man threatens to bomb city offices. An Evansville, Indiana, man was arrested for threatening to blow up Evansville's city offices and kill his neighbor. According to police, the man had a blood alcohol level .43. Around 9 p. m. Friday night he began to call 9-1-1 repeatedly. After more than a half dozen calls, he was asked to stop. He became agitated and threatened to bomb the 9-1-1 operator's home along with city offices. He was placed in custody and treated at Deaconess for high blood alcohol content. On the way to jail, he told police once he is released he planned on shooting his neighbor to death. Because of this erratic behavior, officers requested to have a high or no bond to set to protect the community. His bond was set at \$750. In two months, reports show officers have made 18 runs to the man's home. Source:

<http://tristatehomepage.com/content/fulltext/?cid=120911>

Abandoned briefcase prompts evacuation of Carson City DMV. A customer Thursday afternoon inadvertently left his briefcase behind, prompting the evacuation of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and Public Safety offices on Wright Way in Carson, Nevada. The DMV director said an employee noticed the unattended briefcase about 2:30 p.m. and brought it to his attention. "I saw it was an older briefcase and very suspicious looking," he said. "I just stood there and waited to see if somebody was going to come back and claim this, and then after half an hour I said, no, we're going to pull the alarm and get the people out of here," he said. The Capitol Police, Carson City Sheriff's Office, Nevada Highway Patrol and the Douglas County bomb squad responded. An X-ray revealed the case contained paperwork. About 300 employees and 100 customers were evacuated. The building was cleared at 4:20 p.m. Source:

<http://www.nevadaappeal.com/article/20100101/NEWS/100109984/1070&ParentProfile=1058>

Possible terror attack cited in embassy closings. Citing continued security threats, U.S. and British officials said their embassies in Yemen remained closed for a second day on Monday. In a posting on its Web site, the U.S. Embassy in San'a said the closing was "in response to ongoing threats by Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) to attack American interests in Yemen." Al Qaeda has several hundred members in Yemen and is actively planning attacks against U.S. targets; the White House said Sunday as the U.S. and Britain announced the embassy closings. Speaking from Washington during appearances on four Sunday talk shows, the U.S. President's top counterterrorism adviser cited "indications Al Qaeda is planning to carry out an attack against a target" in the capital, possibly the embassy, for the closure. A State Department spokesman said the closure was not permanent but reopening would be assessed day to day, based on the perceived threat to U.S. personnel. The U.S. is worried about the spread of terrorism in Yemen, a U.S. ally and aid recipient, he said, but does not consider the country a second front with Afghanistan and Pakistan in the fight against terrorism. As to whether U.S. troops might be sent to Yemen, he replied: "We're not talking about that at this point at all." He pledged to provide the Yemeni government with "the wherewithal" to take down Al Qaeda. Britain and the United States are assisting a counterterrorism police unit in Yemen as fears grow

about the increasing threat of international terrorism originating from the country. Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,581803,00.html>

Downtown suspicious package is harmless, say police. A suspicious package that was found Thursday morning outside the downtown federal courthouse is harmless and contained clothes and other items, said police. Officers said they got a call around 6:40 a.m. Thursday about a backpack outside the courthouse located at Eighth Avenue and Broadway. Broadway was blocked from Ninth Avenue to the riverfront, but it has reopened to traffic. Source: <http://www.wsmv.com/news/22097263/detail.html>

Courthouse evacuated after suspicious package found. A courthouse in Kansas City, Kansas, had to be evacuated on Tuesday after a suspicious package was discovered. The package was found in the northeast corner of the Wyandotte County Courthouse just after 3:00 in the afternoon. The area around the courthouse was also blocked off while police investigated. According to the Kansas City Star, members of the bomb squad were called in to investigate. The package reportedly contained personal items and was harmless. Source: <http://ozarksfirst.com/content/fulltext/?cid=220701>

Security costs will top \$75M in NYC terror trial. The New York police commissioner says security for the upcoming trial of the September 11 terror attack suspects will cost much more than the initial estimate of \$75 million. The commissioner drafted a security plan December 18 for the upcoming trials of a high level Al-Qaeda terrorist and four others in New York federal court. The men have been charged with war crimes. The commissioner says the costs will considerably exceed \$75 million, but he would not say how much more. The initial estimate was given November 18. The NYPD says there are not enough officers to handle trial security, so much of the cost will come from overtime and it will be impossible to accomplish without federal funds. There is no trial date yet. No decision has been made on how the cost will be paid.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2009/12/30/us/AP-US-Sept-11-Trial.html?_r=1

State capitol evacuated: situation "all clear". A bomb threat at the Capitol building in Madison, Wisconsin and a suspicious package found right across the street shut down the Capitol Square for three and a half hours. While both turned out to be false alarms, the threats disrupted the area for much of the night. Around three o'clock Capitol Police began turning people away. Someone called Dane County Dispatch and said there was a bomb at the capitol. The building was immediately evacuated and one by one police pushed everyone to a safe distance. An hour and a half later they gave the all clear. The Capitol had only been cleared for a few minutes when the drama began unfolding right across the street. A Madison police spokesman says, "One of the Capitol Officers got information from a patron of Starbucks that there was possibly something suspicious inside Starbucks." Madison Police then evacuated the area and closed down half of Capitol Square. Police still do not have an explanation for either situation and do not know and would not speculate if the bomb threat and suspicious package are related. Either way it was quite a disruption and one that even forced the Red Cross to shut down a blood drive in the Capitol, right in the middle of their operation. Source: <http://www.nbc15.com/news/headlines/80291067.html>

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Symantec Issues South Africa Cyber Crime Warning

The next major global cyber security hub could be South Africa, as the country struggles to cope with the twin effects of rising broadband penetration and the World Cup tournament this summer, warned security giant Symantec. The firm said that South Africa risks creating a "perfect storm" for cyber criminals because of significant broadband infrastructure upgrades within the country, including links to two new undersea fibre-optic cables. Improved broadband connectivity is often the key factor leading to increased botnet activity in a region. Full Article:

<http://www.v3.co.uk/v3/news/2255545/symantec-south-africa-cyber>

Hacker Pleads Guilty in Massive Fraud Case

A hacker from Miami pled guilty to conspiracy to hack into computer networks at major U.S. retail and financial groups, and to steal data on tens of millions of credit cards and debit cards on Tuesday. Albert Gonzalez, who hacked under names including "soupnazi" and "segvec", will be given a prison term of between 17 years and 25 years as part of the plea agreement, said a statement from the U.S. Department of Justice. Gonzalez was able to gain access to payment card networks operated by a number of companies, including convenience store chain 7-Eleven and Heartland Payment Systems. Full Article:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9142848/Hacker_pleads_guilty_in_massive_fraud_case

Adobe will be top target for hackers in 2010, report says. Adobe Systems' Flash and Acrobat Reader products will become the preferred targets for criminal hackers in 2010, surpassing Microsoft Office applications, a security vendor predicted this week. "Cybercriminals have long picked on Microsoft products due to their popularity. In 2010, we anticipate Adobe software, especially Acrobat Reader and Flash, will take the top spot," security vendor McAfee said in its "2010 Threat Predictions" report. Adobe's CTO acknowledged recently that his company's software is being attacked more frequently, and said the company has stepped up its efforts to respond. Mozilla's Firefox browser and Apple's QuickTime software have also faced new attacks. Among its other predictions, McAfee expects more sophisticated attacks next year against social networking sites such as Twitter and Facebook. It also sees the emergence of a new vehicle for attacks in the form of HTML 5, an update to the Web markup language that will support delivery of online video and allow Web applications to run offline. "HTML 5 will blur the line between desktop and online applications. This, along with the release of Google Chrome OS, will create another opportunity for malware writers to prey on users," McAfee said. There was some good news, however. The security firm sees law enforcement having more successes next year in its pursuit of cybercriminals, thanks to closer cooperation and improved skills at international crime-fighting agencies. Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9142829/Adobe_will_be_top_target_for_hackers_in_2010_report_says

New IIS flaw deemed low risk in proper configurations. Administrators following secure configuration best practices should not be at risk to a new, zero-day vulnerability in Microsoft's Internet Information Services (IIS), according to the software giant. A senior security program manager at Microsoft said Sunday night in a blog post that the company is investigating reports of a flaw in the IIS web server but is unaware of any active attacks. He said that for an attack to occur, IIS must be in a "nondefault, unsafe configuration," and an intruder would have to be authenticated with privileges to execute commands that do not comply with Microsoft guidance. "Customers using out-of-the-box configurations and who follow security best practices are at reduced risk of being impacted by issues like this," he said. A handler posting on the SANS Internet Storm Center site said

Sunday that administrators still must be careful because they could unknowingly be running a vulnerable web server due to a webmaster's mistake. Source: <http://www.scmagazineus.com/new-iis-flaw-deemed-low-risk-in-proper-configurations/article/160283/>

Hackers show it's easy to snoop on a GSM call. Computer security researchers say that the GSM phones used by the majority of the world's mobile-phone users can be listened in on with just a few thousand dollars worth of hardware and some free open-source tools. In a presentation given Sunday at the Chaos Communication Conference in Berlin, a researcher said that he had compiled 2 terabytes worth of data — cracking tables that can be used as a kind of reverse phone-book to determine the encryption key used to secure a GSM (Global System for Mobile communications) telephone conversation or text message. While he stopped short of releasing a GSM-cracking device — that would be illegal in many countries, including the United States — he said he divulged information that has been common knowledge in academic circles and made it “practically useable.” The flaw lies in the 20-year-old encryption algorithm used by most carriers. It is a 64-bit cipher called A5/1 and it is simply too weak, according to the researcher. Using his tables, antennas, specialized software, and \$30,000 worth of computing hardware to break the cipher, someone can crack the GSM encryption in real time and listen in on calls, he said. If the attacker was willing to wait a few minutes to record and crack the call, the total cost would be just a few thousand dollars, he said. There are about 3.5 billion GSM phones worldwide, making up about 80 percent of the mobile market, according to data from the GSM Alliance, a communications industry association representing operators and phone-makers. A spokeswoman with the GSM Association said that her group would be looking into the researchers' claims in the coming days and stressed that any type of mobile-phone eavesdropping would be illegal in many countries. Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9142819/Hackers_show_it_s_easy_to_snoop_on_a_GSM_call?taxonomyId=16&pageNumber=1

NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND ICONS

Gun rules in National Parks kick in Feb. 20. A year of controversy ends on February 20, 2010, when visitors will be allowed to pack guns into Glacier National Park. The rule change — loaded guns have not been allowed in parks for decades — first was floated as an administrative rule change in the last days of the prior Presidency, but later was challenged in court. Congress then attached the gun language to credit card legislation, which was signed by the current Administration on May 22. Under the new rules, “all firearms — loaded, concealed and otherwise — can be carried, by anyone,” according to a Glacier Park spokeswoman. National parks and wildlife refuges now will have the same gun rules as the states in which they are located. The guns will not, however, be allowed in federal facilities — such as park headquarters, visitor centers and ranger stations — or in places where federal employees regularly work — such as the auditorium at Glacier's Lake McDonald Lodge. Source: http://www.helenair.com/news/article_eacf04cc-f8fa-11de-91cb-001cc4c002e0.html

POSTAL AND SHIPPING

In Bio Attack, US Post Office could Distribute Aid

An order signed by President Barack Obama directs government agencies, local law enforcement and the US Post Office to work on a model for distribution of medical countermeasures in the wake of a biological attack. The order calls for the model to be drawn up within 180 days. "The US Postal

Service has the capacity for rapid residential delivery of medical countermeasures for self administration across all communities in the U.S." "This policy would seek to: (1) mitigate illness and prevent death; (2) sustain critical infrastructure; and (3) complement and supplement medical countermeasure distribution capacity."

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gMv0jR-olgn3y-RqUoXfpU_J2k2g

Woman in good condition after exposure to suspicious package. Several emergency agencies were called to the scene of a suspicious package delivered to a mailbox in Pink Hill on Tuesday. Detectives with the Lenoir County Sheriff's Office arrived at a home in Pink Hill around 1 p.m. Authorities say a woman received a package from a well known online company containing powder and was treated for exposure. The Sheriff's Office will not identify the company at this time. The padded package was severely damaged during shipping. When she went to open it, the padded material used in packing spilled out. She attempted to clean it up with bleach and became ill. Emergency crews determined the material was not hazardous and the home has since been returned to the family. Officers with the Lenoir County Sheriff's Office, Lenoir County Emergency Management, North Carolina Emergency Management, the S.B.I. and the U.S. Postal Inspectors all responded to the incident. They left the home late Wednesday night. Authorities say the incident is not a threat to public safety. Source: http://www2.wnct.com/nct/news/local/article/woman_treated_after_exposed_to_suspicious_package/90532/

5 taken into custody after mailbox explodes. Police say five people are in custody after a mailbox exploded in a northeast Denver neighborhood. A police detective says two juveniles and three young adults were taken into custody Monday night after the explosion in Montbello. Their names were not released. Police say the five were stopped after their SUV was seen near the mailbox. The detective says homemade bombs were found in the vehicle. A bomb squad removed the devices. Source: <http://cbs4denver.com/wireapnewsco/Denver.police.take.2.1394994.html>

Wheeling man sentenced for post office bomb threat. A Wheeling man was sentenced to four months in prison for making a bomb threat at an Ohio County post office. The defendant was sentenced Monday in U.S. District Court. He pleaded guilty in October to making the threat. Officials said he conveyed false information about an alleged attempt to bomb the main post office in Wheeling. In addition to prison time, the defendant will be on supervised release for two years. Source: <http://www.wtov9.com/news/22074221/detail.html>

PUBLIC HEALTH/SAFETY/INFORMATION

US DOT Announces Distraction.gov Website

On December 30, 2009 President Obama's Executive Order on distracted driving was released to the public. The order will prohibit more than 4 million federal employees from texting behind the wheel while working or while using government vehicles and communications devices. The US Department of Transportation has announced a new national website, www.distraction.gov to get the word out on the dangers of distracted driving. <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/2009/dot20209.htm>

Snowstorm exposes readiness flaws

The winter storm that left tens of thousands of people without power in December exposed problems with preparedness. People living on private roads without service from the state highway

department hinged their snow removal plan on a contractor or a neighbor with a plow. However, the storm was the biggest in 12 years and overwhelmed some contractors, leaving those residents trapped. Residents should make sure their snow removal worker can respond in a storm, and have a backup contractor in mind. Move vehicles to a lower elevation or close to a main road before a storm. Family and neighborhood preparedness planning is very important. Talk to neighbors and family members about teaming up to be prepared. Most U.S. residents are not ready for a disaster, according to a survey this summer by FEMA. The survey found 60 percent of the U.S. believes emergency crews will help them within the first 72 hours of a major weather event or other crisis. That is an unreasonable expectation, and not a good strategy for a typical flood or winter storm <http://www.citizen-times.com/article/20100102/NEWS01/301020020/Asheville-area-snowstorm-exposes-readiness-flaws>

Basic personal emergency preparations & supplies to have on hand:

- One gallon of water per person a day for three to six days, depending on where you live. Higher elevation homes need to be ready for a longer haul.
- Nonperishable food for the same duration.
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio and a NOAA weather radio.
- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- First aid kit.
- Whistle to signal for help.
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place.
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation.
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities.
- Can opener for canned food.
- Local maps.
- Cell phone and chargers

EIGHT SIGNS OF TERRORISM: A 9-minute video put out by the Denver-based Center for Empowered Living and Learning (CELL) is an excellent introduction to training staff about spotting the kinds of activities terrorists engage in when planning an attack.

Called Recognizing 8 Signs of Terrorism, the video was produced with funding from DHS and is available at:

<http://thecell.org/wp/8-signs-of-terrorism-video/> this video provides essential information on how to identify the warning signs and emphasizes the vital role of such assistance in state and local law enforcement's counterterrorism efforts. With clear and succinct narration and dramatic enactment, the video describes the following **eight signs:**

- **Surveillance:** Types of activities terrorists engage in to determine security levels at a facility.
- **Elicitation:** Methods terrorists will use to acquire information about a facility.
- **Tests of Security:** Terrorist will stage tests, such as entering a restricted area, to determine how a facility responds.
- **Funding:** Awareness of unusual transactions such as large donations to fictitious charities.
- **Acquiring supplies:** In addition to weapons, transportation, and communication systems, terrorists may engage in less obvious activities, such as stealing uniforms.
- **Impersonation:** Impersonation of law enforcement personnel or facility staff should raise red flags.
- **Rehearsal:** Describes signs of terrorists conducting dry runs of attacks.
- **Deployment:** If none of the previous signs have been picked up, an ongoing terrorist attack can sometimes be spotted before the target is hit.

Comment: LE Officers should work closely with members of the business community in their patrol area in order to build rapport and identify risks specific to their areas. Suspicious behaviors detailed in the CELL video could be indicators of both criminal and terrorist activity.

Source: <http://safety.blr.com/news.aspx?id=114887>

Solution to MRSA infection found In Norway. It has recently been reported that Norway has found the solution to killing the “Superbug”, also known as MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus). MRSA can actually be controlled without too much effort says medical advisors in Norway. Though it has to be taken seriously it does not have to be feared as much as previously thought if a few precautions are taken. Norwegian medical advisers’ report that the over use of disinfectants can cause the bacteria to become more and more resistant to antibiotics. Studies have also found that continued over exposure of MRSA to disinfectant can in fact cause it to become resistant to it. The key was lessening the use of antibiotics. As many as 20,000 people a year die from MRSA infection yearly in the United States alone. The model of treatment Norway has perfected can be reproduced in other countries also. Source: <http://www.ecanadanow.com/health/2010/01/04/solution-to-mrsa-infection-found-in-norway/>

CDC warns of fake swine flu e-mails. Health officials are warning the public about fake e-mails inviting people to sign up for swine flu vaccine registrations. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention officials this week put out an advisory about the e-mails, which call for adults to create a personal H1N1 (swine flu) vaccination profile on the cdc.gov Web site. CDC officials say the e-mails appear to be spam messages designed by hackers to spread a computer virus. The CDC does not have such a vaccination program. Source: http://www.nctimes.com/lifestyles/health-med-fit/article_261e3262-5e74-5653-b38f-5b307d0a31d6.html

Medical clinic reopens after bomb threat. The Kansas Joint and Spine Institute in Wichita has re-opened after a Tuesday morning bomb threat caused the building to be evacuated. The office received a call around 10:30 a.m. saying there was a bomb in the building, the CEO said. The building was evacuated about 15 minutes later. Police swept the area and determined there was not a threat, and people were allowed back into the building. Source: http://www.kansas.com/197/story/1115918.html?storylink=omni_popular

J&J expands recall of Tylenol arthritis caplets. A voluntary recall of Tylenol Arthritis Pain Caplets is being expanded because of consumer reports of an unusual moldy odor with the 100-count bottles, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said late on Monday. The FDA said it and Johnson & Johnson were expanding the recall to all available product lots of the pain caplets with the distinctive red EZ-open cap. The initial recall involved five lots of the product in November after reports of an unusual musty or mildew-like odor that was associated with nausea, stomach pain, vomiting and diarrhea, the FDA said. The agency said the odor was believed to have been caused by the breakdown of a chemical used to treat wooden pallets that transport and store packaging materials. It said the health effects of the compound have not been well studied, but the events reported to the company have been temporary and not serious. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE5BS2L820091229>

USO reading center at BWI helps soldiers stay connected to their kids

United Through Reading, a California-based nonprofit works with United Service Organizations to provide reading centers for soldiers departing for overseas service. There are 60 reading centers around the world, in airports, military bases and communities. Soldiers are able to slip into a room and record a DVD of themselves reading to their children. Once the family receives the DVD of the soldier, they are encouraged to make a photograph of the child watching the DVD and following along with the book. The photo is then sent back to the deployed service member. The reading

program helps soldiers and their family members stay connected. To learn more about the program, visit, <http://www.unitedthroughreading.org/military/>

Man fires flare gun in Md. hospital emergency room. Police in Maryland have arrested a man they say fired a flare gun in a hospital emergency room. They report the man shot the gun “up in the air toward the ceiling” after he and his wife began arguing with hospital staff members Sunday. A Prince George’s County police spokesman says no one was hurt, and the man fled. The man was taken into custody at a gas station yesterday. There is no word on whether he’s been charged. Source: http://www.weartv.com/template/inews_wire/wires.national/3fd6aaa0-www.weartv.com.shtml

TRANSPORTATION

Brooksville plane forced down near Everglades by military. A tenuous grasp of English and the skills needed to pilot the plane were not going to keep a French pilot grounded December 30, officials said. The man climbed into the Cessna 425, headed south toward the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe and inadvertently flew into a storm of trouble. In a week of heightened security following an attempted terrorist attack on a plane bound for Detroit, the man picked a bad time for a misunderstanding. He was forced down by military aircraft Wednesday afternoon at an airport in Collier County. “This just got way out of hand,” the director of the Hernando County Airport said Thursday. “Someone heard the words ‘airplane’ and ‘foreign pilot,’ and people started jumping to conclusions.” According to authorities, the man had recently bought the plane from American Aviation in Brooksville and had gone through a series of “check rides” at the Hernando airport with a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) -certified instructor to test the plane. He was licensed to fly the aircraft in the United States. But the instructor, who was not identified, recommended that the Frenchman not fly because he could not communicate very well in English with anyone on the ground or in the air. The instructor also told the man that his flying skills should be reevaluated by another instructor, according to a report by the Hernando County Sheriff’s Office. At some point, however, the FAA reported that the plane had been stolen. Authorities at the North American Aerospace Defense Command — the military agency that handles airspace threats — were alerted. Jets responded quickly to pursue the small plane and two F-15’s forced the plane down at the Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport in Collier County, according to reports. Source: <http://www.tampabay.com/news/military/brooksville-plane-forced-down-near-everglades-by-military/1062273>

Man arrested after SeaTac airport incident. Police took a man into custody at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport after he locked himself in a bathroom and claimed to be armed. No weapon was found, but part of the airport was evacuated as a precaution in the Friday incident. A Port of Seattle spokeswoman says no one was hurt and no flights delayed. She says the man locked himself in a family restroom in a public part of the airport about 5 p.m., and police negotiators persuaded him to surrender about two and a half hours later. Airport police say they could not immediately determine what the man’s motive was, but they stress that nothing indicates it was an attempt at terrorism. The spokeswoman said that at one point the man said he wanted to fly somewhere but did not have a ticket. Source: http://www.seattlepi.com/local/6420ap_wa_seatac_arrest.html

Man skirts Newark airport security; flights delayed. A man walked through a screening checkpoint exit into the secure side of a terminal at one of the nation’s busiest airports on Sunday night, and

flights were grounded for hours and passengers had to be re-screened while air safety officials searched for him. Airline passengers were allowed to begin boarding their planes at Newark Liberty International Airport about six hours after the man was seen bypassing security. The man walked down an exit lane at Terminal C about 5:30 p.m., a Transportation Security Administration (TSA) spokeswoman said, and screening was halted while authorities looked at surveillance tapes to try to identify him. Passengers were then moved from the secure side of the terminal, which is used primarily by Continental Airlines Inc., to the open side to go through screening again. Passengers waited in check-in areas. The terminal was searched thoroughly to make sure no dangerous objects were in it before the security checkpoints reopened around 11:45 p.m., the TSA said. The man was not found, but the TSA said its re-screening effort ensured every passenger was fully screened. Security officers instructed the passengers, who expressed frustration over the situation. Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,581832,00.html>

Fireworks found in luggage. Honolulu airport screeners caught a man trying to board a plane with fireworks in his luggage, prompting federal officials to issue a reminder that it is illegal to transport any fireworks on commercial aircraft. Transportation Security Administration inspectors on December 29 found 12 fountain fireworks devices in the luggage of a U.S. citizen trying to catch a flight to Korea, a government spokesman said. The man was allowed to board the flight after surrendering the fireworks, said an FAA Western-Pacific Region spokesman. "If they were to ignite, the results could be catastrophic," he said. "People have to understand that fireworks, even the smallest sparklers, pose a tremendous fire risk onboard commercial aircraft." It was the first fireworks seizure at the airport here this holiday season. Hawaii travelers have the worst record for breaking the fireworks ban on airplanes in the Western-Pacific Region, which is California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii and Pacific islands. "Hawaii makes up a fraction of the region's overall traffic, but the state's passengers account for more than one-third of all fireworks seizures at the region's airports," he said, estimating the number of violations in the region at several dozen per year. FAA officials in Hawaii have sent letters to fireworks retailers asking them to help educate the public by reminding them that they cannot take any fireworks on airplanes. Retailers were given posters to display at their stores. Source: <http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/20091231/NEWS01/912310344/Fireworks+found+in+luggage>

Man detained after causing disturbance on flight. Federal authorities may file charges against an intoxicated passenger who caused a disturbance aboard a Salt Lake City-bound jetliner and was detained by police upon landing. "There does not appear at this time to be a connection to any kind of terrorist activity at all," said an FBI spokeswoman Monday. Three airport officers met Delta flight 1268 from Seattle on reaching Salt Lake City International Airport about 8:30 p.m. Sunday and took the man into custody, said a spokesman for the Transportation Security Administration. "My understanding was he was intoxicated," the spokesman said Monday. Sources told The Associated Press that the man knocked on the pilots' cabin door, but federal authorities would not discuss any circumstances of the case or release the man's name. A spokeswoman for the U.S. attorney's office in Salt Lake City confirmed that the incident was not a terrorist threat. The flight landed safely and there were no problems among the 164 passengers and crew members aboard. Source: http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2009/12/28/us/AP-US-Utah-Flight-Disturbance.html?_r=2

FBI says Bonita man brought explosives on a plane. A Bonita Springs man is back in southwest Florida after being questioned by the FBI as to why he brought an explosive device on board a plane.

Federal agents say the 67-year-old man left what is described as a firecracker like device beside his assigned seat on a connecting flight into LaGuardia airport. The man told reporters that the firecracker had been in his bag for years but he forgot about it. He said it fell out when the flight attendant handed him his bag. Authorities say the man was on US airways subsidiary Piedmont Airlines flight 4126 that landed around 730 pm Sunday. The flight originated in Baltimore. Cleaning crews found the device and contacted Port Authority who then contacted the FBI. Agents tracked the man down and took him into custody. Source:

<http://www.winknews.com/news/local/80236012.html>

Better airport scanners delayed by privacy fears. High-tech security scanners that might have prevented the Christmas Day attempt to blow up a jetliner have been installed in only a small number of airports around the world, in large part because of privacy concerns over the way the machines see through clothing. The body-scanning technology is in at least 19 U.S. airports, while European officials have generally limited it to test runs. The Nigerian national accused of trying to ignite explosives aboard a Northwest Airlines jet as it was coming in for a landing in Detroit did not go through such a scan where his flight began, at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport. The full-body scanner "could have been helpful in this case, absolutely," said the head of the Dutch Pilots Association. But the technology has raised significant concerns among privacy watchdogs. Last June, because of privacy concerns, the House voted 310-118 to prohibit the use of whole-body imaging for primary screening. The measure, still pending in the Senate, would limit the use of the devices to secondary screening. "As a society, we're going to have to figure out the balance between personal privacy and the need to secure an aircraft," said a representative from Utah who sponsored the measure. "And there is no easy answer." Amsterdam's airport has been running a test project with full-body scanners for three years, mainly for a few European flights. One machine being tested there for the past five weeks, made by L-3, is designed to enhance passengers' privacy by having software, rather than a human, analyze the image generated by the scanner. If the software detects an anomaly — something strapped to a leg, for instance — it alerts a human screener to look at the person's leg directly. In May, TSA abandoned "puffer machines" made by General Electric Co. and Smiths Detection, which blew air onto passengers to dislodge trace amounts of explosives. The government said the machines cost too much to maintain and regularly broke down when exposed to dirt or humidity. There are still 18 puffer machines deployed at U.S. airports. Source:

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/tech/D9CSM1SG1.htm>

WATER AND DAMS

Terrorist threat lacks credibility. Security at the Billings Water Plant in Montana was back to normal New Year's Eve after a phone call on December 30 had officials concerned about a terrorist attack. A man called the city Wednesday afternoon voicing concerns about a possible threat to city water. Working with the federal government, FBI, and the Department of Environmental Quality, police determined that the threat lacks credibility. Safety protocol did require increased testing and heightened security for some time, but has since resumed normal operations. Police have identified the caller and the investigation is on-going. Source:

<http://www.kulr8.com/news/local/80449522.html>

Nitric acid leak in Kiamesha Lake brings out haz-mat response. A leak of nitric acid at Leisure Time Ice on Route 42 in Monticello Wednesday morning resulted in a spill of 250 gallons of the chemical;

however, it was contained with no injuries, the Monticello fire chief said. The cause of the spill is under investigation. The leak was reported around 10 a.m. with fire departments from Sullivan County and Sullivan and Orange County haz-mat units being brought in. Route 42 in the area of the facility was shut down with a command center established. Some three hours later, the scene was returned to normal with all emergency agencies returning to their headquarters. Source:

http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/2009/December09/30/Acid_leak-30Dec09.htm

Waves breach Seal Beach sand berm. Pacific storms combined with high tide conditions Monday triggered waves large enough to breach a 10-foot-high man-made berm of sand built to protect oceanfront properties in Seal Beach, California, authorities said. "The waves eroded a portion of the berm, allowing water to pool on the opposite side near some homes and apartments," a Seal Beach Police Department sergeant said. "No one was injured, and there were no reports of property damage. "The situation is not unusual," he added. "This happens every year." High surf advisories for the Ventura County and Los Angeles County coastlines expired at 3 p.m. However, a high surf advisory issued for Orange and San Diego counties was expected to last until 10 p.m., according to a National Weather Service meteorologist. "Basically, we have a large swell that developed as a result of early morning high tide conditions and storms in the middle of the Pacific Ocean," he said. "The surf should be calming down later tonight. In the meantime, it's not a good idea to be in the water. Santa Monica had swells up to 7 1/2 feet high." Source:

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2009/12/waves-breach-seal-beach-sand-berm.html>

NORTH DAKOTA HOMELAND SECURITY CONTACTS

To report a homeland security incident, please contact your local law enforcement agency or one of these agencies: **Fusion Center (24/7):** (866) 885-8295; email: ndfusion@nd.gov ; FAX : (701)328-8175

State Radio: (800) 472-2121 **Bureau of Criminal Investigation:** (701) 328-5500 **Highway Patrol:** (701) 328-2455 **US Attorney's Office Intel Analyst:** (701)297-7400 **Bismarck FBI:** (701)223-4875; **Fargo FBI:** (701)232-7241

To contribute to this summary or if you have questions or comments, please contact the Fusion Center:

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